

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to any paper(s) indicated above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 were pending, under consideration and subjected to examination in the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been amended, canceled and/or added (without prejudice or disclaimer) in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is present interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 1-8 and 10-12 will be pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC '102

The 35 USC '102 rejection of claims 9-12 as being anticipated by Reed (U.S. Patent Pub 2002/0124343) is respectfully traversed. However, such rejections have been rendered obsolete by the present clarifying amendments to Applicant's claims, and accordingly, traversal arguments are not appropriate at this time. However, Applicant respectfully submits the following to preclude renewal of any such rejections against Applicant's clarified claims.

All descriptions of Applicant's disclosed and claimed invention, and all descriptions and rebuttal arguments regarding the applied prior art, as previously submitted by Applicant in any form, are repeated and incorporated hereat by reference. Further, all Office Action statements regarding the prior art rejections are respectfully traversed. As additional arguments, Applicant respectfully submits the following.

In order to properly support a '102 anticipatory-type rejection, any applied art reference must disclose each and every limitation of any rejected claim. The applied art does not adequately support a '102 anticipatory-type rejection because, at minimum, such applied art does not disclose (or suggest) the following discussed limitations of Applicant's claims.

Applicant's disclosed and claimed invention is directed toward providing arrangements (e.g., a charger) for self-propelled cleaning device arrangements, which are more reliable and more inexpensive. Applicant accomplishes the same, at least in part, by having a docking/guiding arrangement which mutually provides both electrical charging power and a cleaning of the dust content from the cleaning device's dust bin.

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More particularly, using Applicant's FIG. 6(a) (reproduced herewith) as an example, in terms of claim language, independent claim 10 recites: "A charger 200 for a self-propelled cleaning device 1 comprising: power supply means 230/250 for supplying power from a commercial power source, to be provided to a power source provided in said self-propelled cleaning device, a first contact 205 for electrically connecting said power supply means with a second contact 14 provided in said self-propelling cleaning device, guide means 208 for guiding movement of said self-propelled cleaning device, to connect said second contact of said self-propelled cleaning device to said first contact, and suction means 206 and dust collection means 207 for removing dust collected in a dust collection case carried by said self-propelled cleaning device, wherein said guide means 208 forms a dust suction port 209 which communicates to said dust collecting means, and opposes to a dust ejection port of said dust collection case."

Regarding rebuttal of Reed (see FIG. 2 reproduced herewith), Reed's battery recharging/guiding mechanism 24 and dust removal mechanism 92/114/118/122 are separate entities within the Reed arrangement.

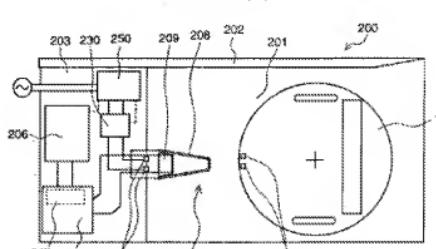


FIG. 6(a)

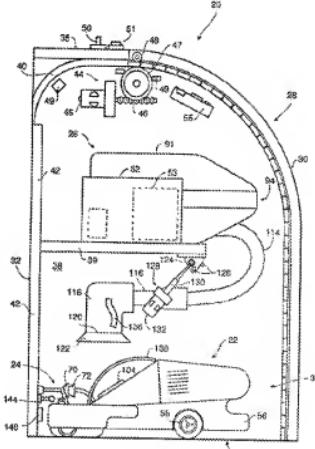


FIG. 2

In addition to the foregoing, the following additional remarks from Applicant's foreign representative are also submitted in support of traversal of the rejection and patentability of Applicant's claims.

Some important features of the present invention resides in that, as defined in the amended independent claim 10, a charger comprises: (a1) a first contact for electrically connecting the power supply means with a second contact provided in the propelling cleaning device, (a2) guide means for guiding movement of the self-propelled cleaning device to contact the second contact of the self-propelled cleaning device to the first contact, and (a3) suction means and dust collection means for moving dust collected in a dust collection case provided on the propelled cleaning device, and (a4) the guide means forming a dust suction port which communicates to the dust collection means and opposes to a dust ejection port of the duct collection case.

That is, a particular important feature of the present invention resides in the feature (a4), which is the guide means forming a dust suction port which communicates to the dust collection means and opposes to a dust ejection port of the duct collection case.

Namely, the dust suction port is formed in the guide means, and such dust suction port communicates with the dust collection means, and further, such dust suction port opposes against the dust ejection port of the dust collection case.

As to advantages (merits) obtained by the present invention, according to the present invention, since the dust stored in the dust collection case of the self-propelled cleaning device is removed and is communicated with the dust collection means for collecting the dust, and also since the dust suction port opposed to the

dust ejection port of the dust collection case is formed in the guide means, it is possible to obtain the following remarkable effects.

Namely, the remarkable effects are that in addition to the positional determination of the electrical connection between the charger and the self-propelled cleaning device, it is possible to carry out the positional determination for forming the piping, which is thus enabled to remove the dust from the self-propelled cleaning device to a dust bin within the charger arrangement.

Regarding comments on the Reed (US 2002/0124343 A1) reference, Reed discloses that a self-propelled cleaning device has a recharging socket 72 for electrically connecting to a recharging assembly 20 and, by connecting a stub section 118 to a debris outlet 104, the dust in a storage compartment 90 is moved.

However, Reed (US 2002/0124343 A1) does not disclose any arrangement akin to the above stated important features shown in Applicant's present invention. That is, Reed (US 2002/0124343 A1) may be partially consistence with a fact in which, by guiding a second contact to a first constant, an electrical power supply means and the self-propelled cleaning device are carried out to electrically connected. However, Reed (US 2002/0124343 A1) does not disclose anything analogous or suggestive of the important feature of Applicant's invention, which is "the dust stored in the dust collection case of the self-propelled cleaning device is moved and is communicated with the dust collection means for collecting the dust". Further, Reed (US 2002/0124343 A1) does not disclose anything analogous or suggestive of the important feature of Applicant's invention, which is "the dust suction port arranged to an opposite side to the dust ejection port of the dust collection case is formed in the guide means".

In Reed (US 2002/0124343 A1), the recharging assembly 70 and the recharge socket 72 are merely electrically connected, in such a constitution, that it is impossible to carry out a positional determination between the stub section 118 and the debris outlet 104. As a result, in the self-propelled cleaning device shown in Reed (US 2002/0124343 A1), it is necessary to have newly a constitution for carrying out the positional determination between the stub section 118 and the debris outlet 104.

Accordingly, the self-propelled cleaning device shown in Reed (US 2002/0124343 A1) has not the constitutions shown in the present invention, and accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Reed (US 2002/0124343 A1) differs from the present invention.

As a result of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art (taken alone and in the Office Action combinations) would not support a '102 obviousness-type rejection of Applicant's claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of such '102 rejection, and express written allowance of all of the '102 rejected claims, are respectfully requested.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR '1.136. Authorization is herein given to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.43600X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Based upon all of the foregoing, allowance of all presently-pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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